

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Although the Office Action objects to the drawings as not showing “every feature of the invention specified in the claims” (Office Action at part 1, lines 1-2) Applicant respectfully disagrees. The “first, second and third attachment portions” are clearly shown in Figures 10 and 11 and are described in detail in the specification in reference to those Figures.

Claims 12-22 remain pending in the present application. Claim 12 is the only independent claim and it includes limitations not disclosed by, nor made obvious in view of, the prior art. Although Applicant does not agree with the analysis of the Office Action that Sinning discloses all elements of the claims, Applicant has attempted to revise claim 12 in order to make the recited structure more clear.

For example, claim 12 is now restricted to an apparatus that includes “a single linear elongated rod having a protruding end”. Sinning’s “rod (1)” and “bottom end (8)” are two separate structures that are not in-line and, thus, are not “a single linear elongated rod having a protruding end.”

Claim 12 recites that the sheet is “directly connected to each elongated rod along a length of each elongated rod.” Sinning’s fabric covering 7 is not attached to any of the elongated rods “along a length of each elongated rod.” This is clearly shown in Sinning since the fabric covering merely hangs adjacent to the rods. See, e.g., Sinning’s Fig. 1. New claims 20-22 recite that the rod is connected to the sheet by, respectively, an “adhesive,” “staple,” and “nail.” Sinning teaches away from an approach since Sinning provides a dressing compartment and if Sinning’s fabric covering were connected to the rods then there would not be a way for a person to enter into the compartment.

Claim 12 recites that the apparatus is “rolled in the elongated direction of the flexible sheet to form a roll for storing.” Sinning’s bars such as 2, 3, 4 and 5, are not flexible. Sinning’s apparatus is not capable of being “rolled”. Rather, as Sinning states several times, the contraption can be “folded” or “collapsed.” See, e.g., Sinning at page 1, line 7; and page 2, lines 43-50. Since Sinning describes the rods as being made out of

“tubing” that are ‘soldered” it is impossible to “roll” the structure of Sinning (see Sinning at page 2, lines 10 and 28 which describe “tubing” and “soldering,” respectively).

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-279-5098.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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